

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently amended) A method of assaying for ~~determining the~~ potential allergenicity, irritancy or inflammatory characteristics of a pre-selected substance or chemical comprising:

(a) exposing a mast cell-line and/or basophil cell-line to said substance or chemical in the absence of a ~~sensitizing agent~~ IgE specific for said substance or chemical;

(b) detecting release of at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediators in response to said exposing; and

(c) designating the pre-selected substance or chemical as potentially allergenic based on detecting release of said at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediators.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 44, wherein said cell-line is a secretor variant of RBL-2H3.

49. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 44, wherein said cell-line is pre-incubated with a marker.

50. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 49, wherein the marker is tritiated 5-hydroxytryptamine, or histamine or β -hexoseaminidase.

51. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 49, wherein the marker is ~~14C~~¹⁴C arachadonic acid.

52. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim ~~44~~9, wherein the release of at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediator is detected~~method comprises exposing said cell line to~~using a chromogen which changes color as a result of in the presence of an immunogenic reaction~~at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediator.~~

53. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim ~~44~~5, wherein the release of at least one mast cell and/or basophil cell mediator is detected~~method comprises exposing said cell line to a radioimmunoassay means for measuring release of mediators~~using an antibody binding assay.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein said cell-line is transfected with a moiety capable of binding human IgE.